

Message Text

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12/45

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 PM-07 NSC-10 SS-15 AID-20

DPW-01 SPM-01 EB-11 IGA-02 L-03 SR-02 ORM-03 ACDA-19

RSR-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /173 W
----- 061104

O R 261116 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1849

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

CINCPAC

CINCPACFLT

CINCUSARPAC

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CINCUSARPAC

CGFMFPAC

CGUSARSUPTHAI

CNO

COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
7/13 AF
7 TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 6380

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (P A R A G R A P H 7.)

JOINT EMBASSY/DAO

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, PFOR, MOPS, CB
SUBJ: KHMER REPORT - JUNE 26, 1973

GENERAL

1. THE PAST WEEK SAW A SLIGHT BUT PERCEPTIBLE IMPROVE-
MENT IN GKR FORTUNES ON ALL FRONTS. THE RICE SITUATION
REMAINS A MAIN CAUSE OF CONCERN, ALTHOUGH SOME RELIEFF
IS IN SIGHT AS A RESULT OF THE REOPENING OF ROUTE 5,
CONTINUING CONVOYS OVER ROUTE 4 FROM THE PORT OF
KOMPONG SOM, AND THE PROPOSED SHIPMENT OF 10,000 OT
20,000 TONS OF PL 480 RICE FROM VIETNAMESE STOCKS.
THE POLITICAL SCENE WAS GENERALLY QUIET, BUT A MAJOR
LOG- JAM WAS BROKEN WITH THE OFFICIAL ANNOU
EMENT OF
MG SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ AS COMMANDER- IN- CHIEF AND THERE
WERE SIGNS OF INCREASES ACTIVITY BY PRIME MINISTER
IN TAM. AS HIS ROADSHOW MOVED THROUGH EASTERN EUROPE,
SIHANOUK AND SUPPORTING CAST REHEARSED THEIR DETERMINA-
TION TO NEGOTIATE WITH NO ONE BUT THE U. S.

POLITICAL (INTERNAL)
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2. PRIME MINISTER IN TAM RECEIVED AN UNUSUALLY LARGE
SHARE OF THE LIMELIGHT THIS WEEK. AKP GAVE EXTENSIVE
COVERAGE TO A CONFERENCE OF PROVINCE GOVERNORS AT
WHICH HE EXPLAINED THE POLICIES OF HIS GOVERNMENT AND
TO A WORKING SESSION WITH PHNOM PENH ILOT CHIEFS DEVOTED
PARTICULARLY TO THE PROBLEM OF RICE DISTRIBUTION. A
CRITICAL REMARK WHICH THE PM MADE CONCERNING THE
REPREHENSIBLE ACTIVITIES OF SOME OFFICIALS IN ILLEGALLY
CONFISCATING FOOD AND PROPERTY FROM REFUGEES RECEIVED
FAVORABLE MENTION IN THE LOCAL PRESS WHICH TOOK THIS
AS A SIGN OF HIS INTENTION TO MOVE FORCEFULLY AGAINST
CORRUPTION.

3. TWENTY- SEVEN POLITICAL PRISONERS ARRESTED FOLLOWING THE MARCH 18, 1970 DEPOSITON OF SIHANOUK WERE RELEASED ON JUNE 18. AMONG THOSE LIBERATED WERE SIHANOUK'S BROTHER - IN- LAW, COL. OUM MANORINE, THE CHIEF OF THE SIHANOIKIST YOUTH ORGANIZATION YIM DITH, AND A NUMBER OF ORMER MILITARY OFFICERS, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, PROVINCE GOVERNORS AND CABINET MEMBERS WHO WERE STRONG SUPPORTERS OF PRINCE SIHANOUK. COMMENT: THE RELEASES ARE IN ACCORD WITH THE POLITICAL PROGRAM OF THE IN TAM GOVERNMENT WHICH, IN THE NAME OF NATIONAL CONCORD, CALLS FOR A RAPID RESOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM OF POLITICAL DETAINEES.

4. REFLECTING LOGSTANDING KHMER MISTRUST OF THEIR VIETNAMESE AND THAI NEIGHBORS, THE ARMY NEWSPAPER RUOM KAMLONG IN SEPARATE ARTICLES TOOK STRONG EXCEPTION TO THE SUGGESTION THAT IT MIGHT BECOME NECESSARY FOR EITHER THAI OR SOUTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS TO INTERVENE TO HELP DEFEND CAMBODIAN TERRITORY. THE REFERENCE TO THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE WAS IN RESPONSE TO A STATMENT BY GVN FOREIGN MINISTER LAM THAT HIS COUNTRY RESERVES THE RIGHT OF PURSUIT AND INTERVENTION IN CAMBODIA IF THE NORTH VIETNAMESE DO NOT WITHDRAW.

5. MAJOR GENERAL SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ HAS BEEN NAMED COMMANDER- IN- CHIEF OF THE KHMER ARMED FORCES. HE WILL HOLD THIS POSITION CONCURRENTLY WITH HIS PRESENT
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DUTIES AS FANK CHIEF OF STAFF. THE DECREE CREATING THE NEW POSITION OF COMMANDER IN CHIEF DESCRIBED IT AS RESPONSIBLE TO THE GOVERNMENT AND DID NOT MENTION MARSHAL LONG NOL' S ROLE AS SUPREME MILITARY COMMANDER. COMMENT: LON NOL' S DESIRE TO INCLUDE A REFERENCE TO HIS PREROGATIVES AS SUPREME MILITARY COMMANDER HAD REPORTEDLY HELD UP PUBLICATION OF THIS DECREE HOWEVER, LON NOL' S PERSONAL ACTIVITY IN MILITARY AFFAIRS REMAINS CONSIDERABLE.

6. A KHMER ROUGE COMPANY COMMANDER WHO RALLIED TO THE GKR ON JUNE 18 CONFIRMED THAT VIETNAMES ADVISORS ARE DIRECTING THE INSURGENT WAR EFFORT EVEN THOUGH MOST OF THE COMBAT TROOPS ARE KHMER. THE YOUNG KHMER DEFECTOR SAID THAT HE HAD JOINED THE INSURGENTS TO FIGHT FOR THE RETURN OF SIHANOUK BUT FELT THAT THIS WAS NO LONGER THEIR REAL AIM.

POLITICAL (EXTERNAL)

7. THE GKR HAS NAMED THREE NEW AMBASSADORS. FORMER PHNOM PENH GOVERNOR OUNG HIEM WILL REPLACE THOUTCH VUTTHI IN JAKARTA; YEM SARONG WILL REPRESENT THE GKR IN AUSTRIA WITH RESIDENCE IN BERNE WHIERE HE IS ALSO THE KHMER ENVOY;

AND AMERICAN- EDUCATED CHHUT CHHOEUR WILL TO TO AUSTRALIA.

8. KHMER PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO
THE UN TRUONG CANG HAS LEFT NEW YORK. HIS DUTIES HAVE
BEEN ASSUMED BY A CHARGE D' AFFAIRES, MRS. NHOUNG PENG,
PENDING NOMINATION OF A NEW AMBASSADOR.

GRUNK/ FUNK

9. SIHANOUK LEFT YUGOSLAVIA JUNE 18 AND RETURNED TO
ALBANIA " FOR SEVERAL DAYS REST". HE WENT ON TO
ROMANIA JUNE 22 . IN BUCHAREST HE AGAIN NOTED THAT
PRESIDENT NIXON HAS REFUSED HIS FORMAL PROPOSAL TO

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RSR-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /173 W
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O R 261116 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1850

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

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USIA WASHDC

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AMCONSUL UDORN

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USMISSION USUN

AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
CINCPAC
CINCPACFLT
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CINCUSARPAC
CGFMFPAC
CGUSARSUPTHAI
CNO
COMNAVINTCOM
COMSEVENTHFLT
COMUSMACTHAI
7/13 AF
7 TH PSYOPS
COMUSSAG
III MAF

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 PHNOM PENH 6380

HOLD BILATERAL TALKS ON THE " WASHINGTON- HANOI PATTERN" .
EARLIER IN YUGOSLAVIA HE TOLD AFP THAT MAURITANIAN
PRESIDENT MOKTAR OULD, ACTING AS INTERMEDIARY, HAD
INFORMED HIM OF PRESIDENT NIXON' S REFUSAL TO TALK.

10. FUNK' S CLANDESTINE RADIO HAS TRIED TO EXACERBATE
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN IN TAM AND THE ARMY. THE
BROADCASTS ALLEDGED VIOLENT VERBAL ATTACKS ON IN TAM BY
C- IN- C SOSTHENE FERNANDEZ SPEAKING AT MR III CG SEK
SAM IET' S BATTAMBANG HEADQUARTERS AND CONTEMPTUOUS
REMARKS BY IN TAM ABOUT THE SPECIAL FORCES. IN TAM' S
REPLACEMENT OF CERTAIN MILITARY GOVERNORS WAS ALSO
CITED AS AN INDICATION OF INTERNAL GKR DISSENSION.

11. GRUNK' S MINISTER FOR SPECIAL MISSIONS CHAU SENG
ISSUED A STATEMENT IN PARIS JUNE 16 REAFFIRMING GRUNK/
FUNK INTRANSIGENCE " IN THE FACE OF MANEUVERS...
FOLLOWING THE SIGNING OF THE 13 JUNE U. S.- NORTH VIETNAM
COMMUNIQUE". THE STATEMENT AGAIN DENIED ANY CONTACT
BETWEEN THE INSURGENTS AND THE GKR ANYWHERE. THE GKR
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION PROMPTLY RESPONDED WITH A
REAFFIRMATION THAT SEVERAL CONSECUTIVE MEETINGS WERE
HELD BETWEEN THE GKR AND " COMPATRIOTS WHO ARE PRESENTLY
FORCED TO LIVE TEMPORARILY ON THE OTHER SIDE" AND THAT
" THIS CONTACT IS STILL UNDERWAY".

GRUNK/ FUNK (ESTERNAL)
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12. AMEMBASSY JAKARTA REPORTS INDONESIAN PRESS STORIES THAT AN ALGERIAN ENVOY TO SUHARTO CONFIRMED THAT THE SIHANOUK AND PRG DELEGATION WOULD BE INVITED TO THE ALGIERS NON- ALIGNED SUMMIT.

ECONOMIC

13. RICE. WITH JUNE 25 RICE STOCKS ESTIMATED AT 6769 M/ T OR 12.3 DAYS SUPPLY, PHNOM PENH' S RICE SITUATION REMAINS CRITICAL; HOWEVER, A DEGREE OF RELIEF IS EXPECTED THIS WEEK. A CONVOY FROM KOMPONG SOM ON ROUTE 4 CARRYING AN ESTIMATED 2400 M/ T IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE JUNE 26. ADDITIONAL ROAD CONVOYS ARE EXPECTED THEREAFTER AT THREE-DAY INTERVALS. TWO BARGES CARRYING AN ESTIMATED 3000 M/ T ARE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE BY SPECIAL MEKONG CONVOY ON JUN 30. IN ADDITION, THE GKR REPORTS THAT A CONVOY IS ALREADY LOADED IN BATTAMBANG AND WILL DEPART FOR PHNOM PENH AS SOON AS ONE DISASSEMBLED BRIDGE ON ROUTE 5 IS REPAIRED.

14. AT LAST REPORT THE GKR DELEGATION IN BANGKOK HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN A FIRM COMMITMENT FROM THE RTG FOR ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS OF THIA RICE. EARLIER IN THE WEEK IT APPEARED THAT THE RTG MIGHT RELEASE AS MUCH AS 10,000 M/ T BY THE END OF JULY AND PERHAPS 25,000 M/ T MORE, BUT THIS OFFER HAS PROVED ELUSIVE AND A GKR DELEGATION IS CONTINUING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE RTG IN BANGKOK.

15. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GKR IS IN THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING UP TO 20,000 M/ T OF U. S. RICE FROM VIETNAM WHICH WILL BE REPAYED BY SHIPMENTS OF PL 480 RICE. ARRANGEMENTS ARE NOW UNDERWAY TO TRANSPORT THE RICE FROM SAIGON TO PHNOM PENH.

MILITARY

16. A JUNE 25 COUNTEROFFENSIVE BY FANK' S FIRST DIVISION FORCED KHMER INSURGENT TROOPS TO RELINQUISH CONTROL OVER AN 8 KM SECTION OF ROUTE 5, PHNOM PENH' S RICE- LINK TO THE NORTHWEST. THE ONE- DAY CLEARING OPERATION MET ONLY CONFIDENTIAL

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LIGHT ENEMY RESISTANCE. REASSEMBLY OF A PARTIALLY DISASSEMBLED BRIDGE IS BEING HASTENED TO PERMIT PASSAGE OF A RICE CONVOY SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 27. INSURGENT FORCES REMAIN IN THE AREA AND COULD BE RECOMMITTED TO RENEWED ATTACKS SHOULD FANK REINFORCEMENTS BE WITHDRAWN FROM THE HIGHWAY.

17. FOLLOWING LAST WEEK' S WITHDRAWAL FROM ROUTE 4, KHMER INSURGENT FORCES INCREASED OFFENSIVE ACTIVITIES AGAINST

FANK POSITIONS LOCATED IN THE ROUTE 2 AND 3 AREA, SOUTH-WEST OF THE CAPITAL. FANK'S THIRD DIVISION WAS SUBJECTED TO A SERIES OF ATTACKS BY FIRE AND GROUND PROBES NEAR KOMPONG KANTUOT, APPARENTLY THE ENEMY'S PRINCIPAL OBJECTIVE. THE DIVISION COMMANDER REPORTED FRIENDLY LOSSES IN THE AREA BETWEEN JUNE 9 AND 23 AT 66 SOLDIERS KILLED AND 333 WOUNDED. ENEMY LOSSES WERE ESTIMATED AT OVER 300 KILLED. GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO RECAPTURE LOST POSITIONS ALONG ROUTE 3 NORTH OF THE TOWN ARE STALLED AS A RESULT OF STIFF ENEMY RESISTENCE. FURTHER NORTH ON JUNE 25 EITHER SABOTEURS OR ENEMY SAPPERS DESTROYED 30 TONS OF AMMUNITION IN A DEPOT LOCATED 8 KM SOUTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH'S POCHENTONG AIRFIELD.

18. FRIENDLY SWEEP OPERATIONS CONTINUED ALONG BOTH SIDES OF ROUTE 4 AGAINST LIGHT ENEMY OPPOSITION. CONVOYS BETWEEN KOMPONG SOM AND THE CAPITAL ARE MOVING WITHOUT ENEMY INTERFERENCE.

19. NORTH OF THE CAPITAL, CONTINUED ENEMY PRESSURE FORCED FANK'S WITHDRAWAL FROM ADDITIONAL POSITIONS ON ROUTE 6 AND FROM ALONG THE WEST BANK OF THE MEKONG. ROUTE 6 REMAINS CLOSED. ONLY LIMITED PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE IN CLEARING ENEMY OCCUPIED SECTIONS OF THIS ROAD WHICH CONNECTS PHNOM PENH TO KOMPONG CHAM. SEVERAL FRIENDLY POSITIONS ALONG THE EAST BANK OF THE MEKONG WERE ALSO PROBED AND SUBJECTED TO ATTACKS BY FIRE; HOWEVER, CASUALTIES WERE LIGHT.

20. NO SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY WAS NOTED NEAR THE PROVINCIAL CAPITAL OF TAKEO OR ALONG THE MEKONG RIVER CORRIDOR FROM WHICH ENEMY FORCES ARE BELIEVED TO HAVE TEMPORARILY
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WITHDRAWN TO REST AND REFIT. CONTINUED HARASSMENT OF MEKONG CONVOYS IS ANTICIPATED, HOWEVER.
SWANK

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 JUN 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PHNOM06380
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730635/abqcegnr.tel
Line Count: 366
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10-Aug-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <29-Aug-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980226
Subject: KHMER REPORT - JUNE 26, 1973
TAGS: MOPS, PFOR, PINS, PINT, CB
To: STATE INFO BANGKOK
CANBERRA
COPENHAGEN
JAKARTA
HONG KONG
KUALA LUMPUR
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Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005